



DOD Early Detection Rapid Response Invasive Species Strike Teams-A Pilot Demonstration Year 3

Project # 14-622

Background:

In 2012, the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program funded the Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) Invasive Species Strike Team Pilot Project to aid in the control of invasive plants and restoration process. Because no integrated pest management effort is successful by treatments only, the Strike Team Pilot Demonstration incorporated a variety of techniques to aid in the restoration of natural areas, including EDRR, the promotion of leveraging funds and knowledge through Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs), to providing DoD facilities with new technologies to manage and monitor control efforts through Invasive Plant Control Connect (<http://www.ipccconnect.org/>). This effort has continued into the 2014 calendar year with continued efforts at NAS Patuxent River (MD), Fort Detrick (MD), Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC/Arnold AFB) (TN), NAS Cherry Point (NC); and Camp Rilea OANG (OR).

Objective:

The overall objective of this effort is to justify the need for Department of Defense Invasive Species Strike Teams. These “teams” are reflective of Invasive Plant Control, Inc.’s travel teams, the National Park Service’s Exotic Plant Management Teams (EPMTs), and US Fish and Wildlife’s Strike Teams. “Teams” work with individual facilities/sites of their prospective agencies that can provide management planning, mapping, on-the-ground selective invasive species management, partnership building, educating and training, to providing technical assistance for clientele.

Summary of Approach:

This DoD Strike Team approached the effort of its existence by returning for a third year to monitor and maintain existing sites at the 5 previously mentioned facilities. As with EDRR intervention, constant monitoring is essential to ensure a viable native habitat. The Strike Team Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were also updated, along with education, promoting CISMAs, and creating treatment delineations of the treatment zones.

Benefit:

The DoD Strike Team Pilot Demonstration results provides evidence that when called, the strike teams can respond and determine a treatment regime, provide selective control of invasive plants, create reports, provide assistance to the natural resource management staff; then move to the next objective. These actions maintain suitable training areas for DoD forces as well as ensure the environmental directives are met.

Accomplishments:

This is the third year of the DoD Strike Team Pilot Demonstration. During 2014 the Strike Team was able to review and discuss invasive plant control strategies with partnering Natural Resources Specialists; provide over 384 acres of selective control treatments on 23 invasive plants; provide and emphasize the importance of monitoring/maintaining previous invasive plant management sites; survey these sites to determine regeneration and determine if native plant installation was needed; continue to develop relationships between facilities and surrounding stakeholders to form partnerships through CISMAs; update and fine tune <http://www.ipccconnect.org/> as the premier online tracking/reporting tool; as well as update the SOP Manual for DoD EDRR Strike Teams.

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